

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2231

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0553

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NL, NS

SUBJ: PROSPECTS BRIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE NOV 25TH

REF : A. PARAMARIBO 0528; B. PARAMARIBO 0522

1. POLITICAL SENSATION HAS BEEN CREATED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT BY HEIR-APPARENT TO OPPOSITION VHP LEADERSHIP, GEORGE HINDORI, THAT HE WILL TEMPORARILY COOPERATE WITH GOVERNING NPK IN ORDER FORM QUORUM PERMITTING STATEN TO CONVENE FOR PASSAGE NECESSARY PRE-INDEPENDENCE MEASURES, NEW CONSTITUTION BEING MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE. HINDORI COOPERATION BREAKS PARLIAMENTARY IMPASSE, WHICH HAS STALLED STATUTORY INDEPENDENCE PREPARATIONS SINCE EARLY SEPT, AND MAKES VIRTUALLY CERTAIN NOV 25 INDEPENDENCE DATE WILL BE MET.

2. IN ANNOUNCING PRINCIPLED SUPPORT FOR NPK MEASURES, WHILE MAKING CLEAR HE REMAINS WITH VHP ALL OTHER RESPECTS, HINDORI RE-ESTABLISHES COALITION MAJORITY IN STATEN WITH COUNT NOW 20-19. VHP VICE-CHAIRMAN ALSO MADE CLEAR HIS RETURN TO OPPOSITION FOLD AFTER INDEPENDENCE WILL RESTORE REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY ELECTIONS (UNLESS NPK MEANTIME IS ABLE ATTRACT ONE OR MORE OF
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NPS DEFECTORS).

3. MODERATE HINDORI, WHO HAS OVERNIGHT BECOME HOTTEST POLITICAL PROPERTY IN SURINAM, EXPLAINED ACTION TO PUBLIC AS REALISTIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT INEVITABILITY OF EARLY INDEPENDENCE. BETTER FOR SURINAM, HE SAID, TO CEASE PLAYING POLITICAL GAMES WHICH RISK FURTHER RACIAL POLARIZATION, INSTEAD WORK FOR ORDERLY INDEPENDENCE WITH SOUND LEGAL BASIS GUARANTEEING RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF ALL. MINPRES ARRON, OF COURSE, PROMPTLY HAILED HINDORI AS SINCERE NATIONALIST AND EXPRESSED HOPE MANY MORE WOULD FOLLOW HIM.

4. MEANWHILE, VHP CHAIRMAN LACHMON, WHO SPURNED NPK OFFER OF FOUR SEATS IN INTERIM CABINET IN FAVOR FURTHER DELAYING TACTICS, HAS CALLED FOR RETURN FROM HOLLAND OF NPK DELEGATION TO REALM CHARTER DEBATE SO THAT FULL STATEN CAN CONSIDER CONSTITUTION, AND FOR POSTPONEMENT OF DEBATE UNTIL END OF OCT. TO ENABLE STATEN APPOINT NATIONAL DELEGATION COMPRISING BOTH GOS AND OPPOSITION MEMBERS. ALTHOUGH THIS CAN BE READ AS LACHMON RECOGNITION OF VHP FAILURE TO RETARD OR DERAIL INDEPENDENCE, APPEAL VIEWED WITH SUSPICION COMING AS IT DOES FROM LEADER HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR SHUTTING DOWN STATEN FOR CRITICAL SIX WEEKS.

5. COMMENT: NPK NATURALLY ELATED WITH HINDORI ACTION. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HINDORI COOPERATION OBIVIATES NEED TO SHARE POWER IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WITH OPPOSITION AS PRICE FOR VHP SUPPORT THROUGH INDEPENDENCE PERIOD, AND ELIMINATES POSSIBILITY OF PRE-INDEPENDENCE ELECTIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE HEIGHTENED RACIAL TENSIONS. ALTHOUGH FURTHER POLITICAL MANEUVERING CANNOT BE RULED OUT DURING WEEKS REMAINING TO NOV 25, MOST SIGNS POINT TO MUCH SMOOTHER PASSAGE INTO NATIONHOOD THAN THOUGHT POSSIBLE FEW DAYS AGO.

6. TIMING OF POST-INDEPENDENCE ELECTIONS REMAINS UNCERTAIN. DEVELOPMENT IN CAMBRIDGE TOLD ME NPK HOPES TO HOLD THEM AS EARLY AS JANUARY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF VHP DISORGANIZATION AND REDUCED EAST INDIAN POPULATION CAUSED BY CONTINUING EXODUS. VHP WOULD PROBABLY PREFER DELAY OF SEVERAL MONTHS TO SEE IF HOPED-FOR RETURN OF MANY EAST INDIANS FROM HOLLAND DURING POST-INDEPENDENCE PERIOD MATERIALIZES.

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